MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE

Constitution Hall Hutchinson Room 525 W. Allegan Lansing, MI 48933

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 13, 2005

PRESENT:

James Byrum, Chair, Commission of Agriculture James Maitland, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture Ann Jousma-Miller, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture Douglas Darling, Commission of Agriculture Dale Norton, Commission of Agriculture

OTHERS PRESENT: (all or part of the meeting)

Chris Andrews, Lansing State Journal

Kendra Butters, Senate Republican Policy Office

Pete Butchko, USDA

Liesl Clark, Food Policy Council

Jeff Cobb, Office of Sen. VanWoerkom

Jerry Crandall, Michigan Information Research Service

Keith Creagh, MDA

Brad Deacon, MDA

Katherine Fedder, MDA

Dr. Nancy Frank, MDA

Amy Frankmann, MI Nursery & Landscape Association

Dr. Steven Halstead, MDA

Bob Kaczorowski, MDA

Christopher Klaver, Gongwer News Service

Jeanne Lipe, MDA

Pat Lockwood, MDA

Deb Merrill, MDA

Jim McNutt

Bridget Patrick, MDCH

Dominic Perrone, MDA

Tonia Ritter, Michigan Farm Bureau

Mark Salogar, House Democratic Policy Office

Dr. Al Stinson

Christine White, MDA

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Byrum called the special meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2005. Commissioner Jousma-Miller called the roll with all Commissioners present.

Commissioner Byrum stated the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates for the position of Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. He asked Robert Kaczorowski, Director, Human Resources Division, to review the process.

REVIEW OF PROCESS: Robert Kaczorowski, Human Resources Division

Mr. Kaczorowski reviewed the list of questions developed by Human Resources staff based on the criteria identified by the Commission at the June 16, 2005 meeting. He encouraged the Commissioners to add follow-up questions or additional questions as a result of the interaction with each applicant.

The Commissioners in the same rotational order asked questions of each applicant.

At the outset of each interview, Mr. Byrum informed each candidate that selection of the new director would take place at the conclusion of the meeting or at another special meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 18, 2005, at the will of the Commission. He informed each candidate that the director position is an at-will employee.

CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The following candidates were interviewed with a recess in between each candidate. The order of interviews were:

10:15 a.m. Michael Schrom 10:50 a.m. Dr. James Lloyd

11:40 a.m.- Lunch

12:30 p.m.

12:30 p.m. Gene DeRossett

1:10 p.m. Mitch Irwin

RECESS:

The meeting was recessed at 2:10 p.m.

RECONVENE:

The meeting was reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

Commissioner Byrum thanked each of the candidates for their participation. He stated that it was an open process and asked the Commissioners for their comments on the candidates.

Commissioner Darling stated that he enjoyed the opportunity to meet all the candidates and learning their background and depth of knowledge and appreciated the time spent to apply and go through the process. Each candidate showed statesmanship and depth of understanding of the industry, the department and the process.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller stated that the Commission had an aggressive agenda to have candidates apply. She stated that she was proud of those who responded within the timeframe and thought they presented themselves well.

Commissioner Maitland commented that each candidate brought a unique perspective and background and he felt there were good candidates to choose from. He looks forward to working with one of them in the future.

Commissioner Norton felt there had been good discussion. Having recently gone through the confirmation process, he appreciated each candidate's position sitting before the Commission. He stated he would have liked to have had more candidates, but was happy with the four presented and looks forward to working with whomever is selected.

Commission Byrum praised the contribution and success of Dan Wyant's nine years as director of the Department of Agriculture. He commented about the diversity of the candidates and quality of the individuals.

Commissioner Maitland stated that this is a big decision and the Commission should look at someone who can work with staff, the Commission, the legislature and the Governor.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MITCH IRWIN AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DARLING.

Commissioner Jousma-Miller stated that Mr. Irwin best met the qualifications set forth by the Commission for the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

Commissioner Darling stated that each of the candidates came to the table with different skills, backgrounds and abilities. With the challenges before the industry, he also supported Mr. Irwin's appointment.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Byrum asked Mr. Kaczorowski and Mr. Creagh to work out details with Mr. Irwin. Additionally, immediate notification will be made to the other three candidates.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: COMMISSIONER JOUSMA-MILLER MOVED TO

ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER MAITLAND SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED

UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

A – Agenda

B – Director Interview Process and Questions

C – Interview Questions to Avoid